

Message Text

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ACTION VO-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 FBIE-00 INSE-00 NSAE-00

OES-03 IO-11 CU-02 FEAE-00 /032 W

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P 131418Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6197

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: CVIS OSCI RO (BIRSANESCU, STEFAN)

SUBJ: IAEA INTERREGIONAL TRAINING COURSE, ARGONNE

NAT'L LAB, JAN 6 THRU APRIL 16, 1976

(STEFAN BIRSANESCU)

REF: A. STATE 003810 B. A-7415

1. EMBASSY HAS BEEN UNABLE TO DETERMINE YET FROM ROMENERGO WHETHER BIRSANESCU'S DSP-66 ACTUALLY WAS OR WAS NOT RECEIVED (REF A). NEITHER HAVE WE SUCCEEDED IN REACHING BIRSANESCU PERSONALLY THROUGH HIS OFFICE. (ROMENERGO IS FOREIGN TRADE ORGAN OF MINISTRY OF ELECTRICAL POWER.) PROTOCOL OFFICIAL AT ROMENERGO COULD NOT CONFIRM TO OUR SATISFACTION WHETHER BIRSANESCU'S ROMANIAN DEPARTURE PAPERS EVEN HAVE CLEARED HIS MINISTRY. IT DOES SEEM CERTAIN, HOWEVER, THAT MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, WHICH SANCTIONS FOREIGN TRAVEL OF ROMANIAN CITIZENS, HAS NOT FORWARDED THE DOCUMENTS TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, SO WHEREABOUTS OF DSP-66 ACTUALLY IS IRRELEVANT FOR TIME BEING. EMBASSY HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF BIRSANESCU'S CASE FROM ANY SOURCE PRIOR TO RECEIPT OF REF A.

2. REFAIR B EXPLAINING NATURE OF IAEA TRAINING COURSE HAS JUST BEEN RECEIVED AS RESULT OF DECEMBER SLOWDOWN IN POUCH SERVICE. WE NOT PARTICIPANTS WERE REQUESTED TO ARRIVE ARGONNE IN NO CASE LATER THAN JANUARY 5, 1976. PRESUMABLY THIS INFORMATION WAS AVAILABLE TO BIRSANESCU'S

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SPONSORS WITH ADEQUATE LEAD TIME. WE WOULD ESTIMATE

BIRSANESCU CANNOT POSSIBLY ARRIVE ARGONNE BEFORE JANUARY 20
IF HE TRAVELS BY ROMANIAN AIRLINE TAROM, EVEN IF MINISTRY
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS REQUESTS VISA IMMEDIATELY.

3. EMBASSY FINDS THIS AN EXCELLENT IF REGRETTABLE EXAMPLE
OF CONTINUING GOR PATTERN IN DEALING WITH FOREIGN TRAVEL OF
ROMANIAN TECHNICAL SPECIALISTS. ADMINISTRATION OF FORMAL
US/GOR CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE ACTIVITIES ALSO IS
HAMPERED IN THIS WAY BY APPARENT INABILITY OF GOR OFFICIALS
TO PROCESS ROUTINE DOCUMENTS VITAL TO TIMELY CONDUCT OF
PROGRAMS, EVEN WHEN SUCH ACTION CLEARLY FALLS IN THEIR
PERCEIVED SELF-INTEREST. IT IS WELL DOCUMENTED HERE THAT
AMERICAN HOST INSTITUTIONS UNDER OFFICIAL AND PRIVATE
EXCHANGES ARE INCREASINGLY DISTURBED BY CONSEQUENCES OF
GOR REDTAPE TO OBJECTIVES AND CONDUCT OF AGREED PROGRAMS
AND PROJECTS. WE DO NOT HAVE IMPRESSION RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS
EVEN AT THE LEVEL OF PROFESSOR URSU, PRESIDENT OF THE
NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, AND DEPUTY
FOREIGN MINISTER GLIGA, EXERT WITH ANY FREQUENCY THEIR
LIMITED INFLUENCE IN THESE CASES TO FACILITATE CUMBERSOME
PARTY-GOVERNMENT APPROVAL PROCESS. THUS PROBLEM IS NOT
SOLVED IF THEY MERELY LET THE BUREAUCRACY RUN AT ITS USUAL
DILATORY PACE.

4. EMBASSY PREPARED TO ISSUE LETTER REQUESTED REF A, BUT
MEANWHILE REQUESTS DEPARTMENT CONTACT ARGONNE OFFICIALS AND
IAEA AS APPROPRIATE TO EVALUATE IN LIGHT OF ABOVE WHETHER
MR. BIRSANESCU'S LATE ARRIVAL IS IN BEST INTERESTS OF
PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT OF THE INTERREGIONAL TRAINING COURSE.
WE THINK IT IMPORTANT THAT ANY DECISION TO WITHDRAW HIS
CANDIDACY SHOULD BE CALCULATED FOR THE VALUE OF EVIDENCE
IT PROVIDES URSU AND GLIGA TO ALERT HIGHEST OFFICIALS HERE
TO THREAT TO MUTUAL INTERESTS OCCASIONED BY HIGH LEVEL
INATTENTION AND HELPLESSNESS OF MIDDLE BUREAUCRACY IN THESE
MATTERS. WE EXPECT TO DISCUSS SIMILAR QUESTIONS WITH GLIGA
IN WASHINGTON DURING MID-TERM REVIEW OF EXCHANGE PROGRAMS
FEBRUARY 12-13. SENIOR GOR OFFICIALS, IN OUR ESTIMATE,
SEEM UNLIKELY TO CONFRONT THIS PROBLEM UNLESS THEY BEGIN
SENSE THEIR LOSSES IN PRIORITY INTEREST AREAS AS TYPIFIED
BY ARGONNE TRAINING COURSE.

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